

Serial No. 10/057,757

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JUN 07 2007REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 12, and 15 are pending in the instant application. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 3-5, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,468 to Harrison in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0073312 to Adiano et al. (hereinafter referred to as Adiano). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 3 relates to a method carried out in an information processing system that includes, *inter alia*, reading an original version of management information, *stored on a data storage device to be verified*, and a first and a second encrypted version of the management information, *the management information identifying the data storage device*, and decrypting the first and the second encrypted version of the management information, the first and the second encrypted versions of the management information system being encrypted by different encryption keys. The method of claim 3 also includes *comparing the original version of the management information and the respective first and second decrypted versions of the management information*. In claim 3, *the data storage device subjected to verification is determined as valid when the comparison result indicates that the original version of the management information and both the respective first and second decrypted management information are in a predetermined relationship with each other*.

The Office Action asserts that Harrison discloses the feature of claim 3 of comparing the original version of the management information and the respective first and second decrypted versions of the management information (Office Action; page 5, lines 8-10; citing Harrison col. 5, line 5, and claim 8, element g). However, the cited sections do NOT disclose or suggest comparing two decrypted versions of management information with an original version of

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management information. Rather, Harrison apparently discusses comparing two unscrambled versions of an encryption key. As line 5 of column 5 of Harrison indicates, if the two unscrambled versions match, *then* the unscrambled versions are equivalent to the encryption key. This conclusion of equivalence does not disclose or suggest the comparison step, as recited in the claim, in which an unencrypted management information is compared with two decrypted management information elements. Similarly, claim 8 of Harrison merely states "comparing said unscrambled versions of said encryption key unscrambled in step f to *check if the latter two unscrambled versions of said encryption key match*, where said versions will match if said enter key corresponds to said secret key" (emphasis added). This comparison of two decrypted keys, even combined with the conclusion that when they are equivalent that the entered key corresponds to the secret key, does not disclose or suggest a comparison between *three* elements, specifically two decrypted elements and an unencrypted element. Therefore, Harrison does not disclose or suggest this feature.

Similarly, none of the references disclose or suggest that the data storage device subjected to verification is determined as valid when *the comparison result indicates that the original version of the management information and both the respective first and second decrypted management information are in a predetermined relationship* with each other. The Office Action asserts that Harrison discloses "comparing original version Key with decrypted first and second keys,..." (Office Action; page 5, lines 18-19). However, the cited sections of Harrison merely disclose comparing a first and second decrypted key, and, if the comparison results in a match, *concluding* that the entered key is the encryption key. The comparison of the two decrypted keys does not disclose or suggest a comparison of two decrypted management

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information *with* an original version of management information, as claimed. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 3 is allowable.

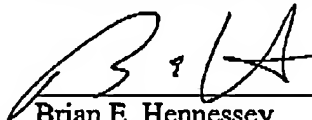
Each of the independent claims includes the feature that the management information identifies the data storage device, and therefore for at least the same reasons claim 3 is allowable, the other independent claims are also allowable.

All of the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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